

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 05**  
**INCIDENT NO. 2001 - 072**  
**DATE: July 31, 2001      TIME: 5:00 p.m.**

**TO:** Governor John Hoeven  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Summer Storms.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: The Grand Forks Office of the National Weather Service (NWS) reported North Dakota currently is in a weather pattern called a mesoscale convective system. As a result, storms are generally developing in the western Dakotas and moving across the top of a high pressure ridge in the central plains. Areas in central and eastern North Dakota are receiving very strong storms with heavy precipitation and occasional wind and hail damage. The forecast calls for a cold front to push through the state and into central Minnesota early tomorrow morning, allowing for a break in the precipitation through August 2.

Runoff from recent heavy rains has contributed to slight rises in the Red River of the North. A flood statement issued by the NWS calls for the river at Fargo to crest at 16.2 feet on August 1-2. The river will then begin to fall slightly to 16.2 feet by August 4. Flood stage is 17 feet.

Devils Lake at Creel Bay measured 1,447.91 feet at 7:00 a.m. on July 31. The current lake level is 0.04 foot below this year's highest level of 1,447.95 feet, recorded on July 22. At 10:00 a.m., neighboring Stump Lake measured 1,412.14 feet.

In Grand Forks County, storms on July 31 caused minor urban street flooding. Officials placed sand and sandbags at a public works building for homeowners needing to sandbag window wells. A city of Grand Forks home was damaged by lightning.

In Logan County, strong winds knocked a tree branch onto a power line, which caused fire damage to a home in Napoleon. Wiring in the basement of the house burned, resulting in damage to a hot water heater and other items in the basement. The house filled with smoke. The occupants have temporarily relocated. Power outages occurred in Gackle and Fredonia, where numerous tree branches were downed.

A storm that moved into Barnes County on July 30 brought up to two inches of rains and high winds in the western and north central portions of the county. On Lake Ashtabula, boats were damaged and pontoons were flipped. In Eckelson, one house was damaged when a tree fell on it. Trees were downed throughout the county.

Golden Valley County officials reported that flash flooding occurred July 25-27 during severe storms that were accompanied by heavy rains, a tornado and hail. Culverts, bridges and low-water crossings were damaged. Additionally, scoria washouts were reported in Garner and Lonetree townships. Crop damages ranged from 80 to 100 percent, according to a Flash Situation Report issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency. Approximately 10,050 acres of wheat, canola, corn, peas, oats and flax were impacted on 10 farms.

In Sheridan County, last week's thunderstorms brought heavy, rapid rainfall to the area. Because of high water tables, runoff infiltrated homes, inundated roads and overloaded city storm drain systems. Additional damages occurred to roads that had been repaired after this spring's flooding.

4. **RESOURCES:**

LOCAL: Entities responding to the emergency include: public works departments, law enforcement agencies, communication centers, emergency management offices, fire and rescue teams, elected officials and administrative offices.

STATE: N.D. Highway Patrol, State Radio Communications, N.D. Department of Transportation, N.D. National Guard, N.D. Department of Health, North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension Service and the N.D. Division of Emergency Management have been monitoring the situation.

FEDERAL: The National Weather Service continues to monitor conditions and to issue detailed weather information. The Farm Service Agency within the USDA has been updating information concerning damages incurred in the agricultural sector.

5. **VOLUNTEER ACTION**: The American Red Cross has made cleanup kits available in the Grand Forks County area.

6. **MAJOR ACTIONS**: A formal local-state-federal Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) has been requested by the state and is currently underway to determine potential eligibility for federal Stafford Act assistance for rural power cooperative losses in Stutsman, Kidder and Nelson Counties. The PDA is also to identify damages in declared counties and in Adams, Grant and Golden Valley Counties, which have not been declared in FEMA-DR-1376-ND. To date, a PDA has placed damages to three rural electric cooperatives at \$1.6 million. The cooperatives involved are Minnkota Power, Nodak Electric and Northern Plains. Teams have completed a PDA in Grant County as of July 30, where \$200,000 in damages occurred. Damages there included a bridge that was totally destroyed and approximately 35 culverts that were either partially or completely washed out. Numerous gravel washes also occurred. Teams are conducting PDAs in Adams and Golden Valley Counties on July 31. Additionally, state and local emergency management officials are compiling a listing of damages that have occurred due to storm activity since the July 3, 2001, incident period end date for FEMA-DR-1376-ND. This information will be included in the PDA.

The Golden Valley Board of Commissioners issued an emergency declaration in response to widespread damage caused by large hail, high winds and tornadic activity.

7. **ASSISTANCE NEEDED**: No additional requests have been received.

8. **OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE** Crews from Minnkota Power Cooperative, Nodak Electric and Northern Plains Electric Cooperative continue to repair downed lines, towers and poles.

9. **OTHER** Appropriate state and local emergency operations plans have been implemented to respond to recent storms.

**FEMA-DR-1376-ND**: To date, 240 Requests for Public Assistance applications have been approved. As of July 31, 19 applicants have received delivery of checks totaling \$773,000 for Public Assistance projects.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director